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Term of Municipal Councillors

* 101 *Q*.—Sri T. V. DEVARAJA MUDALIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Municipal Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to increase the term of Municipal Councillors from three years to five years; and

(*b*) if so, the stage at which the matter now stands?

The Hon. Sri S. M. A. MAJID: (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration.

Sri K. KAMALAKANNAN: Is there any proposal to extend the term of Members of the Corporation from three to five years?

The Hon. Sri S. M. A. MAJID: The proposal relates both to the municipalities and the Corporation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Questions are over.

[*Note*.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—CALLING ATTENTION TO FAILURE OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND POWER-CUT.

Sri M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, under rule 42 (1) of the Madras Legislative Council Rules, I seek your previous permission to call the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Industries to a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the precarious and critical supply position of electric power in the State and the consequent imposition of heavy cut even in respect of essential services and the imperative and immediate necessity to take remedial measures to retrieve the position with a view to avoid heavy shortfall in production and also retrenchment and lay off of workers and the scarcity of essential food articles. The present precarious position of supply of electric power highlights the pitfall of the main dependence on hydro-electric schemes. It is, therefore, necessary to take immediate steps for the generation of electric power through the thermal stations by the use of steam and diesel and also by the establishment of an atomic power station. It is also necessary to encourage private enterprise in the matter of installation of generators in order to augment the supply.

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN: Sir, the reservoirs in the Nilgiris and at Periyar which account for the bulk of the generating capacity depend for their inflows mainly on the South-West Monsoon. The South West Monsoon normally sets in in most of the catchment areas by the first week of June every year. In fact, last year the monsoon had set in during the last week of May itself. Even during the years of the late setting in of the monsoon, it materialised by the third week of June at least in

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some of the catchment areas, if not all, and gradually strengthened there after. With this in view, the storages in the various reservoirs were judiciously used up so as to last till the third week of June this year. Unfortunately, this year the south-west monsoon did not set in even in the first week of July. Such a situation this year is very unprecedented in the annals of the history of the department. The storage position as on 3rd July 1962 and for the corresponding date for the previous year is as follows :—

Name of reservoir.	Level in feet. As on 3rd July 1961.	Level in feet. As on 3rd July 1962.
(1)	(2)	(3)
Mukurti	80·20	4·20
Pykara	94·00	19·00
Mettur	759·75	729·2
Papanasam	868·00	750·8
Periyar	152·00	113·20
Avalanche-Emerald ..	6,463·5	6,373·9
	6,466·6	6,374·2

Expecting the South West Monsoon to set in in all the catchment areas by June as happened in the past so many years, a statement was made in the Assembly that there would not be power cut this year. It was also anticipated that Neyveli would come to our assistance at the beginning of April. This did not materialise.

In the past years when we were compelled to introduce power cut, it had been possible to relax it during the end of June and completely remove it in the first few days of July. This has been our experience for the last twenty years or so.

This year, on the contrary, power cut had to be enforced during the last week of June which had to be increased in the first week of July. This is due to the unprecedented delay in the setting in of the south-west monsoon. We were assured from time to time by the Meteorological Department that this would be a normal year as far as rainfall was concerned. It has been the standing joke of the world that Meteorological forcasts prove false.

While no doubt 315,000 KW installed capacity was added during the Second Plan period enhancing the installed capacity to 560,000 KW as also the building up of additional storages to cater to these stations, the rise in demand and consumption during the last year is phenomenal. The demand of the Madras grid has increased from 381,000 KW in 1960–61 to 482,000 KW registering an increase of 27 per cent. The daily generation has increased from 68 lakhs in 1960–61 to 87 lakhs at present registering an increase of 28 per cent.

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Neyveli could have contributed to retrieve the present emergency to some extent, but, unfortunately, they had their own teething troubles and the generator worked for only 13 days out of the 40 days up to 1st July 1962. The contribution of Neyveli to Madras grid excluding the power taken by them from the Board has been only about 20 lakhs of units so far, in a period of 40 days, which represents less than 6 hours' consumption.

In the circumstances, the Government were compelled to enforce a power cut of fifty per cent in consumption on all industrial power supplies, both high tension and low tension, and on supplies to commercial and non-commercial establishments consuming more than 1,000 units per month in all distribution systems except in Madras Thermal area where it was limited to forty per cent for a period of one week from 26th June 1962 in the hope that the South-West Monsoon would at least materialise at the end of the week and there would be good inflows. As the position deteriorated, a further cut of 25 per cent was enforced on cement industries from 29th June 1962. Unfortunately, the South-West Monsoon did not set in and we had to considerably draw from the already meagre storage which necessitated enhancing the power cut to 66-2/3 per cent in all distribution systems except in Madras Thermal area where it was increased to fifty per cent from 2nd July 1962. The Government were also compelled to increase the power cut on cement industries from 25 per cent to forty per cent and also to impose a 25 per cent cut on domestic consumers consuming more than 50 units per month. Power supply to agricultural loads was restricted to 9 hours daily from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.

All essential services like railways, hospitals, water-supply, sanitary arrangements, street lighting, printing of daily and weekly newspapers, all public offices, aerodromes, etc., and also rice mills, fertilizer factories and tea factories are exempted from power cut.

All industries who are having standby generating sets have been requested by the Electricity Board to run their standby units and voluntarily reduce their consumption. Bulk consumers like B & C mills in Madras and Mettur Industries, Mettur Dam, are running their standby plants to meet part of their demand. About 100 such consumers are running their standby plants to reduce the off-take from the grid and continue their production.

During the 24 hours ended 8 a.m. on 6th July 1962 the inflows into the reservoir and the rainfall in the catchment area thereof are as follows:—

	Inflow in M. C. feet.	Rainfall in inches.
Mukurti	71·39	2·7
Pykara	74·4	1·04
Papanasam	274·5	0·8
Periyar	200·0 (Tekkady Periyar.)	3·29 (Raining heavily.)

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(A very happy and heartening news. It is reported that it is raining heavily in Periyar and telephone communications have been **interrupted.)**

Avalanche-Emerald	..	**133·35**	**0·56**
Forebay Dam ..	..	**23·65**	**0·5**

The inflows during the last 24 hours correspond to generation of 420 lakhs of units.

The Madras Grid is receiving 20 M.W. of power from Neyveli Generator which has been put back into service at 16.29 hours on the 5th July 1962.

There is some improvement in the conditions. The Government have removed, with effect from 5th July 1962, the power cut on domestic consumptions of more than 50 units a month and **the restriction on agricultural loads between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. The** Government have issued orders to-day (6th July 1962) reducing the power cut from 66-2/3 per cent to 50 per cent in hydro areas and from 50 per cent to 40 per cent in Madras Electricity System and from 40 per cent to 25 per cent in the case of cement factories. If the improvement is maintained, immediate action will be taken to reduce further or remove the power cut.

Some of the larger power-consuming industrialists in Madras City have come forward with a scheme to install a thermal power station consisting of two units with a production capacity of 30 M.W. each with a view to meeting their own power requirements, any surplus being fed into the Madras Grid. The proposal is under the consideration of the Government.

Sir, the present crisis has underlined the need for firm power in Madras State. The Government assure that every step would be taken to ensure supply of power in the immediate future. Thank you, Sir.

III.—GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1962–63—(*cont.*)

DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the opportunity given to this House at the time of the budget is the only opportunity that this House can avail itself of for expressing its views on the various points. It used to be said that during the budget discussion one can travel from China to Peru, but in the present circumstances I do not propose to do so. I shall restrict myself to travel from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin and from Calcutta to Bombay. I think it is quite relevant that, when considering the budget, we must not take the microscopic view that only the State budgt is the one that we have to think of. At the time of any budget presentation, there is the three-pronged attack on the same individuals—the common man and the uncommon man, as they are called. One is the Central Government's taxation proposals, the second is the State Government's taxation proposals,